



# Lake Views

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2 - SPRING 2023

LAKE VIEWS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY

## HAPPY SPRING! FROM YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Whether you're a lifelong resident, a first-time visitor, or an entrepreneur, we are happy you're here and would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a few quick reminders. First and foremost, we'd like to remind you of our county website at [lakecountyohio.gov](http://lakecountyohio.gov). Wondering if you need a license for something? You can find information there ranging from Vendors or Marriage Licenses to pulling a building permit, obtaining a Veterans ID card, and much, much more! Have a question regarding a birth/death record or do you have a safety or health concern?



You can access the General Health District through our county website as well.

Secondly, our Board typically meets Thursdays at 10:00 am. We encourage you to refer to our website for an up-to-date schedule as occasionally a meeting needs to be moved. These meetings are held in the Lake County Administration Center in downtown Painesville and are live streamed on YouTube at "Lake County Ohio". If you happen to miss a live stream, you can always catch up by viewing our previous recordings. And our last reminder is, don't forget to visit our Facebook page at "Lake County, Ohio"! You can find information regarding



COMMISSIONER / President  
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER  
JOHN PLECTNIK



COMMISSIONER  
RICHARD REGOVICH

upcoming Career Fairs, job openings, various programs we offer, and county events.

In recent news, we are excited to announce a re-launch of the General Health District's Food Safety Ninja Website ([www.foodsafetyninja.org](http://www.foodsafetyninja.org)). It provides important food safety information including up-to-date food recalls, outbreak alerts, printable resources, food safety links, and there is a "Ask The Experts" section where your food safety questions are answered by the LCGHD's staff. ■



## PHONE PAL PROGRAM FOR ADULTS, 60+

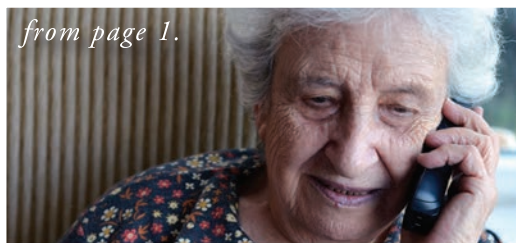
The Board of Lake County Commissioners recently launched a new program designed to address social isolation and loneliness in older adults. The telephone reassurance program, named Phone Pal, matches vetted volunteers with older adults for a friendly chat twice a week and aims to promote social connection and reduce feelings

of loneliness, thereby increasing one's ability to age in place and remain independent.

The program is made possible by an AmeriCorps Seniors grant obtained by the Board of Commissioners last July. The federal grant was awarded, in part, to help communities continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the pandemic brought renewed attention to the problem, the problem itself is not new. Older adults are at increased risk for loneliness and social isolation because they are more likely to face factors such as living alone, the loss of family or friends, chronic illness, and hearing loss. Research has linked social isolation and loneliness (continued on page 2)

from page 1.



## Lonely?

### Need someone to talk to?

Enjoy a friendly chat with a phone pal twice a week.

Call (440) 350-2020 for more details or  
scan the code to complete  
the online interest form.

Lake County Phone Pal Program  
For adults 60+



to higher risks for high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, anxiety, depression, dementia, and even death. Research shows that programs like Phone Pal have significant positive impacts on social isolation and feelings of loneliness and therefore could reduce the associated health risks.

Phone Pal is unique in that it uses a software system that allows approved matches to call through a special phone line. This provides many benefits for both the volunteer and the participant. Volunteers and participants never need to share their personal phone numbers with one another, protecting everyone's privacy. The software will automatically track phone calls made via the phone system for reporting purposes, saving staff time and reducing the need for volunteers to report hours. Lastly, participants will know when one of our trusted volunteers is calling because it will always be the same phone number on their caller ID. This can help protect people from answering spam or fraudulent calls.

Getting started with Phone Pal is simple. Individuals may self-refer or be referred by another person or agency. When your referral is received, we will make phone contact with you in order to complete a screening. Once approved for the program, older adults are matched with a volunteer who has completed training and has had a successful background check. You may visit <https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/senior-services/> and follow the online interest form on the 'Phone Pal Program' tab, or call (440) 350-2020 to get started.

*For more information on the Phone Pal program, please call (440) 350-2020. If you are interested in being a Phone Pal volunteer, contact the Lake County Volunteer Network at (440) 350-5360. ■*

# LC SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been serving Lake County residents and communities since 1947.

A water-quality driven organization from the beginning, Conservation Districts were formed to coordinate local, state, and federal response to major environmental disasters like the Dustbowl, major flooding, the effects of inappropriate farming practices, and the haphazard clearing of lands for agriculture and development. Ohio's Conservation Districts became specialists in working with residents and communities in identifying local conservation priorities and developing management practices and funding sources to address them. In addition to these services, the District has adapted for current agricultural practices such as wineries, nurseries, smaller hobby farms, and forests.



Today, the Lake SWCD mainly protects water quality in the Grand, Chagrin, and Arcola Creek watersheds and Lake Erie. With continued Lake County Commissioners' support, the District works closely with local governments, residents, planners, organizations, and the development community to help reach our economic, recreational, and environmental goals.

Watershed Services work with communities to protect and restore the county's streams, rivers, and wetlands through watershed planning, assistance with local zoning, development plan review, stream and wetland restoration projects, and providing permanent protection of agricultural and natural lands through conservation easements when appropriate.

Erosion and Sediment Control Services (ESCs) protect our streams, rivers, and wetlands, by helping communities to stay in compliance with the Phase 2 of the Clean Water Act. ESCs include plan review and inspection of construction sites for erosion control practices. This ensures that Ohio's #1 water pollutant (soil) stays on construction sites and out of our streams, creeks, rivers, and Lake Erie.

Homeowner and Landowner Technical Services are provided free of charge and cover a wide array of assistance to every resident in Lake County. These include general drainage, forestry management and pond and stream assistance. The SWCD can also provide guidance and information about backyard pollinator habitat, rain gardens, rain barrels, and soil testing. You can schedule a free technical assistance site visit by calling (440) 350-2730.

Conservation Education Services provide educational opportunities for all ages. The District provides conservation education resources and programming for educators and students in grades 6-12 throughout the county. Lake SWCD, in cooperation with local communities, public agencies and non-profits, offers workshops and courses in backyard conservation topics like rain gardens, native landscaping, and smart salting.

*For more information on backyard conservation and watershed management, you can contact Lake SWCD at (440) 350-2730 or visit their county page at [lakecountyohio.gov/swcd](https://lakecountyohio.gov/swcd). ■*





# LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Sheriff's Office is proud to be an active part of Lake County and has a rich history dating back to 1840 and the birth of our county. Our office is comprised of five divisions which impact many areas of our criminal justice system.

Our Dispatch Center receives over 68,000 cellular 9-1-1 calls every year. In addition, over 225,000 calls come into our center from dispatching for (11) police agencies and (9) fire departments. We are also the direct contact in the event of a problem at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant facility.

The Corrections Division processes approximately 5,000 inmates through its doors each year. Our daily population varies between 325 and 400 inmates per day with 95% of them consisting of inmates from our Lake County court systems. On average, 80-90 women

are housed in our jail. With a goal of returning people back to society better than when they first arrived, we offer programs such as drug and alcohol treatment and women's reentry, as well as offering mental health counseling and the opportunity to obtain a GED.

We patrol the unincorporated areas of Concord, Painesville, Perry, and Leroy Township. This area encompasses 88 square miles and 55,000 residents. We have a SWAT Team as well covering 3 counties, marine patrol that covers our Lake Erie shore, a dive team, canine units, bike patrol, a mounted unit, a CCW office, school resource officers and an Explorers program.

In 2022, our Detective Bureau handled 394 investigations to include criminal complaints, Heroin Task Force investigations, and U.S. Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force investigations. As well, it works closely with Lake County Narcotics regarding informant development and information sharing. They are typically handling about 1,000 active warrants, county investigations, and jail investigations.

We provide security to the Common Pleas, Probate, Juvenile, and Domestic Relations Courts. In addition, security is provided in the Lake County Administration Center. It is the responsibility of our court's division to transport inmates to and from the jail for

hearings and to 30+ prisons throughout Ohio. We are also responsible for bringing back prisoners from across the United States who have been arrested on warrants.

Our administrative support services processes all of our documents and accounting including civil process, jail records, public records, Sheriff's sales, personnel and payroll records, traffic and criminal documents, and they assist in court filings. In 2022, over 131,000 incident reports were processed, 1,429 warrants were received, 800 public records were processed, and over 6 million dollars in properties were appraised for Sheriff's sale.

In summary, we are honored to serve the people of Lake County and consider ourselves blessed to have so much support in the work we do. We want our community to be proud of the work we do, how we provide service in a caring, courteous and professional manner, that our individuals maintain honesty, integrity and honor, and help bring a safe quality of life to our citizens. We strive to be a proud aspect of our Lake County community. ■



*Sheriff Frank Leonbruno*



Download the  
LC Sheriff's Office  
SmartPhone App

## WILLOWICK: LC Commissioners Community Spotlight



The Willowick community has had a long, proud tradition of being a wonderful place to spend a lifetime. Our 14,200 plus residents will be the first to tell of their faith, their families, and their friends in Willowick. With our slogan of "Great Living on a Great Lake," we have redefined our city as a waterfront community. The newer Larimar development on the shoreline is certainly one of the most exciting additions to the south shore of Lake Erie.

*(continued on p4)*





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Board of Commissioners  
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## WHAT IS...

The Ohio State University Extension Office in Lake County brings the knowledge of the university directly to you. We fulfill the land-grant mission of The Ohio State University by interpreting knowledge and research developed by Extension professionals, faculty, and staff at Ohio State University and other land-grant universities (as there is one in every state) so Ohioans can use the researched information to better their lives, businesses, and communities.

The Extension system is the world's largest non-formal educational system. Extension's hallmark is programming delivered by professionals to address the needs of the local community while also addressing state, national, and global issues. Our practical educational programs combine the needs of local citizens and communities with new research and technical information.

No matter which county you visit, you can find professionals who can provide help in the four major OSU Extension program areas: family and consumer sciences (FCS), 4-H youth development, community development, and agriculture and natural resources (ANR) and sea grant. These program areas (and many other special topics) are continuously being evaluated and updated to meet the changing needs and issues facing each community.

Extension provides practical advice, sensible solutions, and realistic down-to-earth answers for ALL Ohioans. In Lake County, FCS provides information, education and programming that better family life such as parenting education and support, financial literacy programming, nutrition, and other family related topics.

Community development provides recycling information, education, and programming in schools and in the community, 4 H is America's largest youth development organization, empowering 4-H youth as they learn by doing, in



## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

the things they like. Based on their interests, youth join one of many clubs in the county and complete projects to showcase at the fair and meet friends. There are also camps and many other opportunities for learning, leadership, and fun outside of their project interests. Lake County has its own overnight camp at Camp Whitewood the week of June 5-10. Youth learn valuable skills by making lifelong friendships. Ohio sea grant addresses pressing Lake Erie issues ranging from harmful algal blooms to sustainable community development through research. Sea grant professionals in Lake County, that are along the lakeshore, bring science-based decision-making tools to our community and businesses. ANR provides information and programming to both nursery growers and crop producers on topics including environmental based pest management, soil health, and new technology adoption. We support new agricultural businesses and offer assistance regarding sustainability and succession for ongoing operations. We also serve the needs of residents and homeowners by providing presentations on backyard vegetable gardens, fruit trees, and landscapes. Additionally, we answer questions for Lake County residents about lawn, garden, and tree care/issues through our helpline and diagnostic services.

*If you have any questions or would like more information about our programs, you can visit our website at [lake.osu.edu](http://lake.osu.edu) or call our office at (440) 853-2625. ■*

## Community Spotlight *(continued from p3)*

Our churches and religious communities have long provided a spiritual environment for residents of all ages and faiths. Royalview Elementary and Willowick Middle Schools have served as excellent learning environments for our children. Their reputations are well-known and well-deserved.

Perhaps the greatest attribute of the Willowick community is its people. Being reputed as welcoming and friendly, Willowick residents of all ages take pride in their community and care deeply about their city and their neighbors. The Recreation Department in Willowick is nothing less than amazing, featuring four public parks with its leisure opportunities enhancing the quality of life for all of our generations.

Willowick is fast becoming a focal point of western Lake County as we continue to attract new businesses. We invite you to visit us in northern Ohio where we are located just 15 miles east of the city of Cleveland. See why our residents say, "There's no place like home."

